

CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
AMERICAN TRACT
SOCIETY

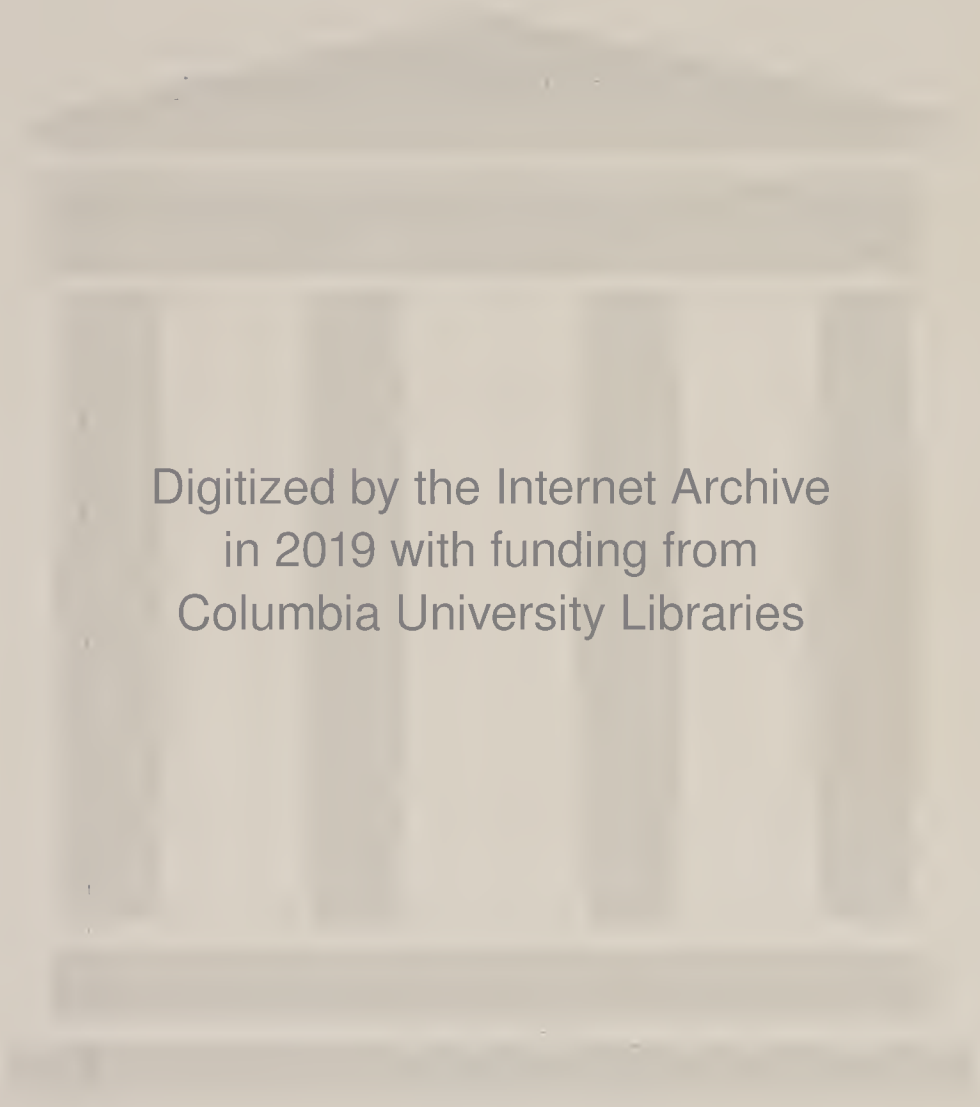


MAY EIGHTEENTH
NINETEEN TWENTY-FIVE
HOTEL BILTMORE
NEW YORK CITY

Centennial Anniversary
of the
American Tract Society



May 18, 1925
Hotel Biltmore
New York City



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FOREWORD

When plans were being made for the Centennial celebration of the American Tract Society three facts were carefully considered. The Society now enjoys, as for a century, an intimate and friendly relation with the great national religious and philanthropic organizations. It has a great host of friends especially those who are aiding the work or being helped by it. Further, the Society is stronger today than for a third of a century and its future assured and exceedingly promising.

Because of these considerations it was decided to entertain representatives of the various religious organizations and other friends of the Society at a reception and banquet, and that the Centennial celebration should be in the nature of a Jubilee for the enjoyment of good fellowship and without solicitation of funds.

To this end the spacious and beautiful ball-room and the adjoining parlors of the Hotel Biltmore were secured for this occasion. The ball-room was tastefully decorated with flowers, flags and bunting. The dinner and the service rendered by the hotel were in keeping with the reputation of this famous hostelry. The Gloria Trumpeters rendered delightful and inspiring music throughout the evening. Mr. William Phillips Hall, president of the Society, presided, and there were two hundred and fifty guests present. The addresses were forceful and eloquent.

That those present may preserve a souvenir of the celebration, and the host of friends unable to be present may enjoy the addresses of the evening though absent, the following report has been prepared.



CENTENNIAL BANQUET
OF THE
AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY
AT
THE BILTMORE, NEW YORK, MAY 18, 1925

THE BILTMORE, NEW YORK, MAY 18, 1925

BANQUET HELD AT THE HOTEL BILTMORE, MAY 18, 1925

Centennial Celebration

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY

MONDAY EVENING

May 18, 1925

The Centennial Assembly and Banquet of the American Tract Society came to order at 7:15 o'clock, Mr. William Phillips Hall, President of the Society, presiding.

DR. DAVID G. WYLIE INVOKED GOD'S BLESSING
UPON THE ASSEMBLED GUESTS

PRESIDENT HALL: We have gathered here this evening to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the American Tract Society. This Society was organized in May, 1825 "to diffuse a knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of sinners, and to promote the interest of vital godliness and sound morality by the circulation of religious tracts calculated to receive the approbation of all evangelical Christians."

During the one hundred years just past, the Society has published Christian literature in one hundred and seventy-eight different languages and dialects. It has distributed leaflets, tracts, pamphlets, volumes and periodicals through its various agencies to the number of 815,699,200.

It has given away two and three-quarter millions of dollars' worth of Christian literature. Over five and one-half billion pages of tracts have been distributed gratuitously but with discrimination.

For all those facts we praise God and take courage. But there are a number of things of immediate interest to us on this occasion, and, in speaking of them, we will have to touch on the high spots only.

Something over fifty years ago, there was a lady who gave a special fund to establish an income from which we could purchase and present to each member of the Graduating Class at West Point a copy of the Word of God each year, and for over fifty years the American Tract Society, with the interest derived from that money and other funds, has presented each and every member of the Graduating Classes at West Point a copy of the Bible. We have not been partial, for we inquire of the Chaplain as to what particular version the cadet desires to receive. Some of them prefer the King James' or Revised Version; the Roman Catholics prefer the Douay Version, and we give them what they specify; and that work has been going on for from fifty-two to fifty-three years. There have been a number of friends who have joined with the original donor. We have one with us here this evening who has given to this particular cause.

Now of late the Lord has moved the heart of one of His hand-maidens to advise us that she has decided to give to the American Tract Society, for the glory of God and in loving memory of her father and mother, an amount of money sufficient to present each and every member of the Graduating Classes with a copy of the Word of God as long as she lives. In other words, at least \$600 a year and maybe more, and that she has provided in her will, the sum of \$12,000 more, the income to be used for the same purpose in perpetuity. That lady's name is Miss Annie Miller. God bless her! (Applause) I can't conceive of any more truly Christian or patriotic act than that, and I hope you will join with me in praising God for this gift which He has gained to His cause and His kingdom for those young men who graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Let me also add this, about another matter that may be spoken of appropriately in this connection. You all recall a great figure, on the pages of American History—General Ulysses S. Grant. You remember that his last days on earth were spent at Mount McGregor, where his life ebbed away, while he bravely dictated his "Memoirs" that his wife and those dependent on him might have some means of support after he had passed hence. I may

say that sometime prior to his last illness, General Grant had united with the Metropolitan Temple Methodist Episcopal Church here in New York, the church of which Dr. Cadman, who is to speak here tonight, afterward became pastor.

General Grant was a Christian and pre-eminently a man of prayer, apparently very few people know that. Some years ago I met a young man whose father had been a member of General Grant's staff during the Civil War, and he said his father had told him that General Grant was a man of prayer; that in the midst of great battles he would go into his tent and plead with God for wisdom and direction.

Upon telling this to Col. Franklin P. Sellers, Religious Editor of the "Brooklyn Daily Eagle," he said, "That is true. When General Frederick Grant was at Governor's Island, I attended a dinner at which he was present and he said, "My father was a man of profound faith in God and sought heavenly wisdom and guidance from God through prayer." We thank God for all that beautiful story, but here is something which follows that has to do with the American Tract Society. As a matter of fact, just after the death of General U. S. Grant, our Executive Secretary, Dr. Edwin Noah Hardy, visited the house at Mount McGregor in which the great General spent his last days on earth. He looked over the belongings of General Grant and noticed on the table where he used to sit and read, a black book like this I hold in my hand, called "Daily Light on the Daily Path." He opened it and it opened to a page that evidently was frequently read by the General, and it begins as follows:

"As thy days so shall thy strength be. And he said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecution, in distresses for Christ's sake, for when I am weak, then I am strong. I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me!"

Those are the words our great General spiritually fed upon from the Word of God through a book published by the American Tract Society. We thank God we were able to contribute that to his comfort and cheer. (Applause)

I might speak of other things but time fails. The floor belongs to Mr. Bryan. It gives me great pleasure, not to introduce Mr. Bryan, for he needs no introduction. Every true Christian man and woman loves William Jennings Bryan for his devotion to our Blessed Lord. (Applause) I delight in his deep spiritual interest and devotion to the cause of the King and His Kingdom. I first met him at the International Convention of Christian Endeavor in St. Paul in 1909. I had charge of the Evangelistic Meetings of that Convention. Mr. Bryan was our speaker the first day, and on that occasion I met him for the first time. He said to me, "What shall I speak upon?" I said, "Something evangelistic." He spoke on the theme "Why be a Christian?" an address that has since immortalized itself. That is one thing I hope the American Tract Society, with Mr. Bryan's approval, will after a time put in tract form and distribute throughout the length and breadth of the land. I distinctly remember that service. I remember how Mr. Bryan pleaded with that audience, and then how at the end of the address, about one hundred men and women surrendered to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and that was the result of the message from the heart and lips of our beloved brother.

I know you will be pleased to listen to him. (Applause)

ADDRESS OF HON. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I have had many surprises in my life, but I think that this was about as complete a surprise as I have ever had. I had promised to come down to speak tonight at Carnegie Hall at the invitation of Brother Patterson, and then I promised to go over to Brooklyn and speak at noon on the invitation of Brother Carter, and then I received an invitation to come to dinner here, and I just supposed that a few of the men were going to meet and we would have just a nice little time before going to the hall. You can imagine my surprise when Brother Patterson came dressed in his tuxedo, and I was just ready to go over dressed as I was to speak tonight. I want you to know I have a tuxedo. (Laughter) That is a good deal more important than wearing one. I find if people know you have one you don't have to wear it. It is not having one that hurts. I would have had mine on if I had known you were going to come dressed in tuxedos, for I don't like to speak in tuxedos unless it is

somewhere where everybody wears them, and I just supposed this was an evangelistic meeting, and I was afraid I couldn't evangelize with a tuxedo on. (Laughter) But it is pleasant to find the men and the women too, only it makes me lonesome to be at a dinner where there are women for I like to have my wife with me where there are women and my family is better represented when both halves are present than when there is just one.

The American Tract Society is one of a great number of things I am interested in. I find my interests are growing and anything that is connected with the welfare of society can count me in on it, and religion is the greatest thing that is connected with the welfare of society. I am spending an increasing amount of time talking on religious subjects and I am doing it for two reasons. In the first place, it is the greatest subject that there is, and I want to end my life with the biggest theme; I don't want to run down and have a sort of an anti-climax at the end of my life, and if I did not believe that religion was the greatest thing in the world I would not spend so much time on it. The other is that if you talk on religious subjects and can only reach one person, you haven't talked in vain. I began in politics and I found no matter how good your proposition was, unless you get a majority to agree with you you couldn't carry it out. It is astonishing how hard it is to get a majority to agree with you. (Laughter) But when you talk on a religious theme, if you can only help one single person, it is time well spent. In the distribution of tracts, think of the number of tracts which have been distributed by this Society. Think of the number of hearts to which you have gained admittance with religious association, and then think what it is to convert one single human being.

We will not know until we get on the other side what this Society has done, for it cannot collect statistics. The work that it has done in this way is so difficult to follow up. But I remember hearing a man speaking for the Y. M. C. A. and heard him say, "If all the money expended on buildings and running expenses has resulted in saving but one young man, it would be money well spent," and when he was through a man came up who was rather of an economical turn of mind, and said, "Don't you think that is an extravagant statement to say that the saving of one boy would be worth that much money?" The man said, "No, not if it were my boy."

All we have to do is to apply that to some one who is dear to us, and then we know that one human soul outweighs in value all the money that it ever cost to reach a soul. For man is just a link in a chain that is almost endless, and when you save one soul, that soul's influence goes out to the next generation, and we can't tell how far the influence extends or how many come under its spell. I think we over-estimate what the mind can do and under-estimate the achievements of the heart.

Take the telegraph system. It is a wonderful thing and we can hardly express our feeling of wonder when we think that one can stand by the side of a telegraph instrument and by means of the electric current speak to people ten thousand miles away. It seems almost impossible, and yet we know it is true.

But the achievements of the heart are more wonderful still for one who can put into operation a great movement for the benefit of the race, or becomes a partner in an organization that does set on foot any great movement that goes on in increasing influence, his heart will talk to hearts that will beat ten thousand years after all our hearts are still, and that is more wonderful. When we think what it means to an individual to have his life changed and what it means to a society to have its life changed, we can't estimate what this Tract Society has done.

I remember reading in the Review of Reviews a few years ago of something of a great revival that took place in Wales, and it was said to have commenced in a little prayer meeting. In that prayer meeting a little girl arose and when there had been some hesitation about speaking, she said, "If no one else will speak, I want to say I love the Lord Jesus with all my heart," and there was something in her trembling voice that touched the hearts of those about her and they arose to speak, and from that prayer meeting there did go out this influence that spread over Wales and changed the lives of tens of thousands, and changed the conduct of communities. If a little girl with a trembling voice can start a revival that will bring to the foot of the cross thousands of people and through those thousands go on through all the countless ages yet to come with that influence undiminished, aye even increased—if that can be done by a little girl in a little timid speech, then how will you estimate the mighty influence that has been set on foot by this Tract Society in one hundred years? Who will meas-

ure what its influence has been in shaping the destiny of our nation and its influence abroad affecting the destiny of the world?

In traveling around the world Mrs. Bryan and I decided to visit a missionary station. I mention it to show how little you know when you start out what you are going to do. We thought we would like to see a missionary station at work. On the way across the ocean there were thirty-two missionaries on the boat and they all invited us to stop at the missionary stations and we spent our time in Asia going from one station to another, and when we got there we had become acquainted with missionary stations everywhere, and this was the thought that came to us: that although our trumpet isn't heard around the world, it is true that before the sun goes down on one center of religious influence established by American money, it rises upon another, and the influence of the Christian people of the United States is felt around the world. (Applause) And when the world is redeemed as it one day will be by these widening circles until they meet, our nation is going to have a large share of the credit, and no one can tell how many of the missionaries who have gone out to carry the gospel to those who sit in darkness have had their first thoughts awakened and their first ambitions stirred by literature that has been put into their hands by this great Society.

I am glad to be here tonight to share in the rejoicing that we ought to crown such an anniversary with, and I join in the prayers of these good people that its success in the next one hundred years will be much greater than in the last one hundred, and that a thousand years from now it will be in the very vigorous prime of its life, still carrying the gospel all over the world and to everybody, and helping to fulfill the promise that was given us after Christ arose from the dead and just before he ascended when He commanded that we should make disciples of all people everywhere, and promised he would be with us even until the end of the world.

He has been with this Tract Society, and I have no doubt His blessing will rest upon it in the splendid work it is doing and will do.

I thank you for the opportunity to be with you. (Applause)

. . . "Faith of our Fathers" was sung at this point . . .

PRESIDENT HALL: Mr. Bryan's address brings to mind the fact that from the day of the martyred McKinley, down through the days of the activity of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, all were Honorary Vice-Presidents, as is also Mr. Bryan, of the American Tract Society—in fact, for a number of years past, with but two exceptions, all of the Presidents of the United States have sustained that relationship to the Society. I am happy that Mr. Bryan could be with us here this evening and give us this truly Christian and splendid address on the vital interests of the Kingdom of our Saviour, and speak as he has spoken so graciously and praiseworthily of the Tract Society. We all love him as a brother in Christ and may God bless him for his address here tonight and the spirit he has shown, the spirit of our Lord and Master, which I thank God may be reckoned ours also. (Applause)

(“America” was sung at this point.)

PRESIDENT HALL: Among the sweetest memories of past days is the memory of a friendship that was very dear to your presiding officer here tonight, and equally dear, I believe, to the man who is to follow and address us. That is the memory of Dwight L. Moody, that great man of God, who although but a humble layman arose under God through the sheer force of his great and extraordinary character and ability, to an amazing eminence in the field of religious leadership. I have wondered whether, when the roll is taken up there of those who led multitudes to accept our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, the same Dwight L. Moody or Charles H. Spurgeon would stand foremost. They were great laymen, for neither was an ordained clergyman. But Moody's ministry was marvelous, magnetic, with the spirit of Jesus Christ. Moody's heart was great and noble and true to his Lord and Master and to His cause. Moody loved men even though they differed with him, and he always recognized true brethren in Christ and loved them.

In the early days of his ministry I loved him for what he was and did for Christ. In the later days of that ministry, I knew much of him and at last he and I became intimate friends. In 1899 I was conducting an evangelistic mission in New York with Robert Stuart MacArthur, now in heaven. When I was permitted to organize the tent movement, which has since spread throughout the country, we wrote Mr. Moody and told him that we were going

to inaugurate and carry on the movement in a tent at the corner of Broadway and 57th Street, and we were anxious to have him with us. He wrote back, "I will help you" and he came down and made good his word.

One evening while talking together, he mentioned my dear friend at my right, Doctor Cadman. He said in part, "Hall, I want you to love him as I do. I see a great future for him. I believe he is going to rise to great eminence in the Kingdom and work of Christ, and I want you to always pray for him." I have been praying for Samuel Parkes Cadman ever since. God bless him.

We are proud to have him with us tonight. He is the President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, most worthily elected to that high office, and we shall be delighted to hear the message he has to give.

We also have with us Dr. Frank Mason North, that man of God who has immortalized himself not only in his missionary work and written articles, but in that hymn "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" that we all delight to sing, and that is filled with the spirit not only of true poetry, but of our blessed Master as well. God bless Dr. North! It is a rare occasion and company we have here tonight to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of our Society.

Here is Dr. Cadman, a son of a Wesleyan Methodist. I have been a Methodist for forty-four years myself, although born in the Presbyterian fold and raised on the old Westminster Confession and catechism, and I have never gotten away from it, but I have been a Methodist for forty-four years, and it was as a Methodist I first met him. We who are Methodists, we who are Dutch Reformed, we who are Baptists, we who are Lutherans, we who are Congregationalists, and we who are members of every branch of the Evangelical Church, are one in spirit and in the work of the American Tract Society.

We meet here tonight to hear a message from a man who to a pre-eminent degree represents the spirit of Christian unity and stands for a United Church of Christ, and I pray God the time may come when in the full sense of our Saviour's last recorded prayer and in answer to it, all of God's people may be truly one, visibly as well as invisibly, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Dr. Cadman!

(The company arose and applauded.)

ADDRESS OF REV. S. PARKES CADMAN, D.D.,

My dear Mr. Hall and Mrs. Hall, Fellow Guests and Brethren: I am somewhat embarrassed by the characteristic generosity of this introduction by my old comrade of many years, Mr. Hall. I was wishing while giving it that Mrs. Cadman could have been here to know what a prize she secured in the matrimonial basket. (Laughter) My honored predecessor in the uncrowned pontificate of the Protestant churches, Dr. North, will bear me out when I say that any man who inherits the honors which he enjoyed and deserved long before me need not be reminded he must bear them modestly. (Laughter) There are those around me who should be kept in a due state of discipline. I rather enjoy a supremacy which has not the responsibility of office, and an infallibility which never has to be exercised.

It gives me very great pleasure to be here in response to the courteous and welcome invitation of President Hall to congratulate this honored Society on its Centennial Anniversary. There are certain spots where we leave the theological razors at the door. I think that could be practiced to great advantage to the Kingdom of God. I should not think it even timely or in any way beseeeming to discuss anything here which is of a debatable character. Indeed, I am the most orthodox person in this room, for I come from direct Evangelical heritage through Wesley himself, and was born in the parish in which John Fletcher, of holy memory, was the minister. My grandmother told me her mother entertained him at tea when tea was very much dearer than it is now. (Laughter) And I am still a member of the church which I joined as a boy at fifteen years of age. I get my class tickets every Quarter, with a hint that the money for them is due; and I always send the money, Mr. President. (Laughter) If you want to see a Pharisee of the Pharisees, look at me. If you are an orthodox person, I do not think you will have to direct your gaze even to some of these astounding specimens seated around me this evening.

It has been said by our President with overflowing grace and meaning unction, that we are one in the life of our Blessed Lord. After all, one is reminded, is he not, as he hears of these mighty champions of the church to whom Mr. Hall has referred, that the center of Faith has never been a creed or a book, but a Person

and a Life. Nor could we do a safer or better thing in this day of tumultuous excitement than gather here in a serene atmosphere of things concerning which we all agree because we have received them with the verification of a personal experience. Our contact with the Divine Master is so real, so daily and so vital that it is the secret of our strength and our fellowship. If we are to hope for a growing, healthy, progressive federation of our various Protestant churches, it will not come, as you know, through edicts issued from authorities. It will only come as the common life of our one Lord brings us together.

The Tract Society has perhaps the most honorable genealogy of any Society that could be celebrated. For in some respects it is the prototype of the Bible. And this is the year, Mr. President, when we celebrate the memory of one greater even than Spurgeon or Moody, to whom reference has been made. The glorious William Tyndale is also commemorated; he died on the soil of the Lowlands the death of a martyr, witnessing for that Bible which has been the fountain of our illumination and strength both in Church and State, since it was made free to all the people in their own tongues. Tyndale not only translated the Scriptures, following Wycliff, and doing the work more completely and single-handed; he not only sacrificed with gladness his life to crown his work; he also imparted to the English Bible we revere, that peculiar majesty of style which no modern rendition has been able to approach within a million leagues. If you find in the version of 1611 Jacobean prose at its height, without any grandiloquence or weakness, you can trace that prose to the influence of William Tyndale. He said he would make the Bible as familiar and beloved to the plowman in the field and to the cottager in his hut and to the child coming fresh from his play as it was to the princes of his day. In fact, the Bible may be considered as a bundle of tracts which Tyndale rendered into incomparable English. And the first great Tract Society was that which issued these Scriptures from time to time.

In following up with your own Tract Society, also Great Britain's, and those of other nations, you have in a real sense imitated the worthy example of those who first circulated the Holy Scriptures. From beginning to ending, apart from any theological prejudice, the Books of the Bible are independent documents; glorious pamphlets ablaze with divine light and

power. Genesis, the Book of beginnings; Exodus with its story of the crossing of the Red Sea; Leviticus, and its liturgies; Numbers with its statistics; Deuteronomy and its accounts of wanderings in the wilderness or of the giving of the Law; Joshua, whose monumental sword conquered Palestine; Judges, the iron age of Israel; Ruth, with its exquisite love story; Samuel, Kings, with the tragedy of Saul; the triumph of David, afterwards dimmed by fleshly lust, and then cleansed by a penitence that better became him than his deeds of war, are tracts that have revolutionized civilization and can do so again. Then that Confessional we call the Psalter, followed by the literature of Hebrew wisdom, not without its potency today; and after these, the Prophets, an immortal chorus; the dusky splendor of Ezekiel's vision; Jeremiah, the oratorio of hope in desolation; the sturdy manhood of Daniel; the theophanies of Isaiah; the four great Gospels, each being one view, incomplete because the life they portrayed could never be encompassed by a thousand Gospels; and after these the Epistles! Was it not wise you should follow such an illustrious model? Where is there such a literature as this? Whether it be viewed from the literary, the moral, or the spiritual side, it is unsurpassed and incomparable. To be able to say that we have trod in the path of this selection of tracts is to place our Society upon a very lasting foundation.

Moreover, as you know, there are in the lives of men today many things with which this Tract Society finds correspondence. After all, we must, as Mr. Hall knows from his experience as an evangelist and a business man who has tried to make religion a part of his daily practice, connect our beliefs with environment. In fact, if I may name Spencer here, he said that life was correspondence with environment, and that when we cease to correspond with our environment, we cease to live. That explains some churches you and I know. They fail to correspond with environment.

My first memory of life is that of my father, a Methodist lay preacher, taking a bundle of tracts from door to door, passing in one and receiving the one left the week before, and thus by change making them do all-day work. Those tracts were read when the minds of the people were unoccupied by any other learning. I rather think that today's unlimited printing has its sinister side. After you have been flooded with the yellow journals and similar

products in the magazines and fugitive literature of our day, what room is there for the great truths the Tract Society sets forth and which the Bible still more majestically proclaims?

When the Bible first came into the lives of our fathers, it was hailed just as keenly as any new planet swimming in the sky by an astronomer. There was no rival literature, no poetry save Chaucer's, no fiction, no philosophy except in a few scattered translations. So the Supreme Book came to them, and the music of its noble English left emotion in the heart and stamped itself upon the memory. It came to minds which were hungry for truth because they had not received any spiritual food. Its great verities came with thrilling force because the people were not satiated and incapable of appreciation, nor saturated in the vulgar things which destroy reverence and paralyze many of the greater functions of the soul. That was why, when a Reader stood in old St. Paul's Cathedral in the reign of Henry VIII, fifteen years after Henry had burned every Bible he could put his hand on, that official read the Bible in the hearing of the English people for five hours in the crowded church. After he sat down, exhausted, women threw their confections in the pulpit and implored him to go on. "It shall come to pass in that day that I will send a famine on the people," said the Lord. I sometimes think if we were not so busy with useless and superfluous matter, what St. Paul calls "Saving truths" would have a larger and more effective opportunity.

I am confirmed in this opinion by the conclusion of a great thinker who stated that one-half men know is entirely useless, and could be discarded tomorrow to the benefit of everybody concerned. When we think of the little we know, that sounds like a rash statement; yet is there not truth in it? How is it, I ask in all seriousness, that today, when we have separated ourselves as a nation from the public teaching of the Bible in our system of public education because of our religious differences—thus robbing our children of their sacred heritage—that we are incapable of breeding adequate leadership for State or Church?

We sometimes speak of the period when the Tract Society first came into existence as being in most respects a despicable one. The historian seldom mentions it without rebuke. As a century, it was disreputable and sordid. Yet it produced men and women

whose like we cannot produce. Out of the Serbonian bog there grew up some very stately cedars in God's garden. One might as well look for orchids around the North Pole as expect to find such great men and women in the Eighteenth Century. Nevertheless, Wesley was a capable man, the noblest Protestant who has ever lived, said a great German. And when a German says that about an Englishman, it deserves consideration. Augustine Birrell said Wesley lived nearer to the heart of that century, which included Washington and Pitt, than any other man. It also gave us Samuel Johnson, James Madison, John Marshall, Alexander Hamilton, and Edmund Burke. Where are their equals now? There shall be that which increaseth knowledge but addeth nothing to wisdom. There shall be men in whose right hand the truth shall be, and they will not know it. It might be well, in all this modern rushing to and fro, seeking some new thing to discover, to anchor upon those great and fundamental things for which your Society lives, must live, and shall have increasing power in the years to come. (Applause)

When everything is said and done, there is a certain crying need for the work of this Society, couched upon the finest possible lines, because we are not gaining, as it seems to me, in the depth and significance of religious life. We criticize our Roman Catholic brethren; it would be well for us to study the Thirteenth Century and see how they got results. About thirty years ago a simple French girl was born in a peasant community, and today she has three million devotees because of her practice of the religious life. She left a few tracts, which are now circulated throughout France and thirty other countries. She was unlettered, but she was filled with the Spirit; a type of Christian we have nearly lost because of the encroachments of rationalizing processes to which we surrender province after province of mysticism and inspiration. In that same spirit, Dr. North wrote his great hymn. All great hymns have been written and all great visions have triumphed in it. The imagination, in its creative functions, moved upon by the Spirit of God—that is real religion. It creates its own theology, as it did in St. Paul, in St. Augustine, in Luther, in Calvin, and in Wesley; and it must do so again, for no generation can create a living theology for the next generation. It has to come out of the beatings of one's own heart blood and felt experiences.

Nothing is so difficult as a tract. Nobody has been able to reproduce the Bible in any part. Many are able to amend and criticize and conjecture about it, but they are not able to add anything to it. With all our splendid epochs of literature since the last of these Semitics wrote, no one has entered their class, a statement which I think will be generally admitted. If you want to know what it costs to write a successful tract, try to do it. I confess I cannot. I may do the "bow-wow" style, but when it comes to writing a tract, I am helpless, and there are others in the same condition whom I shall not name. It is hard to compress much in little, as Lord Oxford does. To say "multum in parvo"—much in little—to utter the all-conquering word that never jumps the track, and goes from start to finish direct as a trusty blade, is a notable achievement. We know men who write orations. The less some know, the better orators they are. But when it comes to cold print, to put behind the arguments the pulsating emotions that get results is the art of writing. We shall be glad if those who can achieve this will volunteer their services for the next tract.

Again, there are the limitations of language. I was glad to note in the report of your work for the last one hundred years that recently we have included the Spanish language—a Spanish periodical and several books. I do not know Spanish, so I speak with the enthusiasm of ignorance; but I know enough to know that it is a language capable of height and depth, prolific of beautiful words, the stateliest of all the Latin languages, although little known to us. I am happy to learn we have gone out into these linguistic fields on all sides.

I have said enough to show you I am one with you in this vital business, and I shall do anything I can to aid the Society. You are no longer young in the matter of mere time, or as we count years in this dear land of ours. Yet the American Tract Society renews its youth. May it go on, and widen out, and gather to itself all beneficial contributions, applying the wisdom of God in its interpretation of His boundless grace in Jesus Christ toward all men. We should have tracts that present the philosophic side of Christianity. We ought to have tracts which enlarge upon the striking phases of the Christian Church before her division in the Sixteenth Century, showing to our people, what few realize, that all the preceding company of Saints and Prophets and Schoolmen belong

tous as Protestants. We have a common heritage in the movements of Christianity which redeemed Europe from barbarism and built her cathedrals and universities. Let us get behind the next movement. The Thirteenth Century believed that as God is the Father of men, so is the church their Mother. There will be no salvation in any political system until the Church is honored by people, and is worthy of their recognition and trust. I thank you. (Applause)

“The Church’s One Foundation” was sung at this point.

PRESIDENT HALL: I am sure I voice the thought and feeling of every person in this room when I say we thank God for your presence, Dr. Cadman, and your message.

We have with us here tonight a number of friends who have for many years been identified with the work of the American Tract Society, who have been interested in it, who have self-sacrificingly cooperated in its activities, and who are devotedly engaged in those activities today, and who are also identified with other branches of Christian life and service. Among those present, we have the honored presence of the President of the American Bible Society, my dear friend and your dear friend, E. Francis Hyde. I am going to ask Mr. Hyde if he will give us a few words on this occasion.

ADDRESS OF MR. E. FRANCIS HYDE

President Hall, the American Bible Society is very happy to greet the American Tract Society on this occasion of its celebration of one hundred years of service. Those words, “one hundred years,” sound very sonorous to me, very roaring and rounding. One hundred years! Yet they don’t quite make the effect on me, those words, as the effect which President Hall made on me when he read in his first address, the account of what the American Tract Society had done in those one hundred years. He said in his first remarks that from 1825 to 1925 the American Tract Society had sent out eight hundred and fifteen millions of tracts and parts of scriptures and so on, to the world which needs that kind of literature. That made much more of an impression on me than the fact that it was one hundred years that the Society had been doing it.

That last century of ours is a great century—that century which the American Tract Society has lived—1825 to 1925. All the great

things of spiritual progress seem largely to have come in that one hundred years. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave His message nineteen hundred years ago. He said, "Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature." But that was nineteen hundred years ago. A large part of the work of the nineteen hundred years—we read of in the scriptures as being commanded by our Lord—has been done in the last one hundred years or a little more.

Take the American Tract Society with its one hundred years; take the great missionary societies, it has only been a little over one hundred years since they went to preach the gospel to every creature. Take the American Bible Society; it is only one hundred and ten years old and in that time it has sent out seven hundred millions of Bibles and parts of the Bible. Take the British and Foreign Bible Society. In a little over one hundred years it has with the American Bible Society, translated the Bible or parts in seven hundred and seventy different languages and dialects.

Last year we celebrated in the American Bible Society, the first whole translation of the Bible in the Chinese language by Missionary Morrison. We had there the edition, the first whole translation of the Bible in the Chinese language. That was just one hundred years ago last year.

Think what a century this one hundred years has been that the American Tract Society has been working.

Then it occurs to me that we ought not to forget those other agencies that have been working for the Kingdom of God, not one hundred years old, but within the one hundred years. Think of the millions of young men belonging to the Y.M.C.A., not one hundred years, but nearly. Think of the millions of young women who belong to the Y.W.C.A. Think of the millions of young people that have joined the Society of Christian Endeavor all over this country and throughout the world. There are three great organizations that have carried the gospel of Christ all over the world, in addition to the great organizations which have lived one hundred years or more. It makes me think "like a mighty army goes the Church of God," and that army is composed of a great many large corps d'armes, and the Tract Society is one of the biggest of those corps d'armes. It has been going forward one hundred years and may it go on many hundred years more. (Applause)

PRESIDENT HALL: We have already mentioned the name of one who is present with us, whose presence we delight in, and whom our hearts welcome. I am going to ask our dearly beloved brother and friend for many years, mentioned by myself and Dr. Cadman particularly in respect to his great ministry in the foreign missionary cause, Dr. Frank Mason North, former President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, to speak to us.

ADDRESS OF DR. FRANK MASON NORTH

Mr. President, I never suspected you would do this sort of thing to me after all these years of our friendship and among people who know so well how limited in the way of resources for unexpected and extemporaneous oratory I am, to which my friend, Dr. Cadman has referred. It is a great pleasure to have reassurance to one's flagging spirits, to one's broken energies as one confronts the great problems of life, problems of work in other lands, and in this land, and particularly at this time when we are so frequently told in print and in speech that we are a decadent folk and losing our grip, and that even now, when we are among our best friends, the church hears, "Why the church?" I do not know whether you are in that place or not—"Why the church?" At this age, nineteen hundred years, why the church? It is reassuring, is it not, to have such a brilliant genius as Dr. Cadman, tell us that we are after all doing a little bit in the way of making the world better; that in spite of our hesitancy and failure, we are at least publishing tracts and circulating the Bible and preaching a great gospel in untold numbers of languages and bringing men everywhere throughout the world out of their darkness and out of their degradation into the beauty and sweetness and the glory of a living faith in Jesus Christ.

Really it is reassuring to stop long enough in the midst of this great humming city to remind ourselves that God is moving greatly in this world of ours, not only along the paths that we have ourselves sketched for Him, not only within the boundaries we ourselves have thought wise to fix for His powers, not always in just the kind of associations that we have thought He would like to keep in the world, but moving greatly forward and taking into His love and into His fellowship through Jesus Christ, His Son, and by the

power of His Holy Spirit this great generation of ours and preparing for a great work in the generation that is to come.

Beloved friends, I did not know I should be asked to say this word or any word tonight. It was farthest from my thought that I should, but I take the blessed opportunity that comes to me from time to time to try to say to others what I say to myself, "God lives, Christ has not lost His power, the cross on which He died is the cross of sacrifice and inaugurated a brilliant, splendid movement throughout the world, and the old Book is full of the revelation of God for the saving of men, and everywhere it is sent, and everywhere its truths are put into your tracts and into the great business of the circulation of the truth through the spirit of men and to the word of men."

There is a great movement throughout all the institutions and throughout all the concerns of men that tell of the presence of the immanent God and of the power of His son who died to save the world. Personally, I am glad to know that we have this Society and other societies and the churches and the great movements among the young women and the remembrances of these things that have been done and the hopes for the things that are to be done. Let us be brave, let us be humble, tolerant of one another, let us recognize the realities in each others' views of the truth, but believing in Jesus Christ, and through Him do well the task that God has set for us.

May I say a word about a tract? I think it was not published by the American Tract Society, but there was a time when I was about fifteen years old, when I had begun to feel the movement of life about me and within me, when I felt somehow there was something that I needed in my own heart, and someone put into my hand a little tract. I don't know that any of you ever saw it. I owe to it much of my life, much of my spirit and my work and my knowledge of God and my confidence in Jesus Christ. What was its name, its title? "The Living Christ." Just that—"The Living Christ."

Not the dead Christ, not the Christ of reverence, not the Christ of nineteen hundred years ago, dead, buried, and forgotten, but the living Christ. It told me I could walk with Him, companion with Him, trust Him, consult Him, depend upon Him, and that He was the most vital and real power and person in the life I was

living, and I could have Him for myself, and I took Him for myself as a living Christ. A living Christ!

I pray that millions of such little messages will go out to the waiting hearts of the youths, and the waiting and wearied hearts of those who are older, to bring the reality of the blessed faith in Jesus Christ. (Applause)

PRESIDENT HALL: We are delighted to have this splendid testimony from our beloved brother.

I am going to call upon another dear friend and associate of ours in the work of the Society from the city of Boston: Reverend Robert Watson, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, of the Hub City, who is here with us tonight.

ADDRESS OF REV. ROBERT WATSON, D.D.

Mr. President and friends: It is not necessary in this presence and after the addresses of this evening, that I should add anything to what has been said.

We serve a great Christ with a great gospel. Our only shame is that we do not serve Him with greater capacity and consecration.

Having the opportunity, however, Mr. President, to say just a word may I add this: Tonight as I sat here, my mind ran over the history of this great Society, and I thought of the men who made this Society what it has been, and the men who have made it what it is today. So I feel very thankful tonight, sir, for the men who have given their lives to it and have gone to their eternal reward, and I feel very grateful tonight for the men whose lives are still spared and are being vested in this great work. The President of this Society, William Phillips Hall; the Vice-President, Dr. David James Burrell, who was not able to be here; Dr. David G. Wylie, who led us in the invocation because Dr. Burrell was not present; Dr. Edwin Noah Hardy, one of the secretaries, Dr. William H. Matthews, the Secretary of the Society—to all of whom we owe so much for its present vital life.

Thank God for men who are still working capably, conscientiously, and constructively in the spirit of Jesus Christ and those that have gone before. (Applause)

The Gloria Trumpeters played a selection at this point.

PRESIDENT HALL: Now, dear friends, I want to speak in regard to the life and service of one who really perhaps would prefer that I should not speak a word along that line; but for a great many years in the history of our country, we have had one devoted hand-maiden of the Lord in this country who has given her heart and her life to advancing the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, along both spiritual and material lines, in the hearts and lives of multitudes of our fellow citizens and people throughout the nation. We would recall the fact that during the Spanish-American War, she ministered to the boys in the navy; of her noble work for them which took definite and concrete form in that beautiful building of the Naval Branch of the Y.M.C.A. in Brooklyn; and of her constant ministry in their behalf in other ways, all of which made the name of "our Helen" beloved by millions. In later years, she has given herself very largely to the support and forwarding of the interest of Christian education and such work as is carried on by the American Tract Society. She has contributed to the printing of tracts in various foreign languages, those tracts being made up of extracts of the living written Word of God. She has been doing a great amount of work. She is one of the Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Society. We are honored in our association with her. I don't know whether she will care to speak, but I wish to say that in the name of our Lord we delight to honor and have associated with us in this great cause Mrs. Finley J. Shepard.

The members arose and applauded.

ADDRESS BY MRS. FINLEY J. SHEPARD

Mr. President, I am deeply touched by these kindly words which I fear are not at all deserved, for my work has been poor and small and weak compared with what the rest of you have done.

May I say one word? Have any of you ever tried to find the sermons of a minister ancestor? That is what I have been trying to do of late, to find the sermons of an ancestor who came from England many years ago, and was a clergyman in Concord, Massachusetts, for twenty-five years, being the founder of the church there. He lived three hundred years ago. If any of you can tell me how to find the sermons of Reverend Peter Buckley, I shall be very grateful. He also was called "the thundering preacher."

The other ancestor was the Reverend Samuel Wakeman. I found three sermons this morning and decided he also might well have been called "the thundering preacher" because of the way he grappled with the consciences of his parishioners.

Now if I am seeking this three hundred years after my ancestors have gone to know what they stood for, how much more will your descendants or your collateral descendants some day be trying to find what you have stood for and what message you have given, and whether you have stood faithfully by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and by the word of God. (Applause)

PRESIDENT HALL: Among those most devoted and interested in the work, is Mr. S. B. Chapin. May we have a word of greeting from him?

MR. S. B. CHAPIN: The hour is so late and you have heard so many good speeches that I will not say anything. (Applause)

PRESIDENT HALL: And may our good friend, Dr. Carter, of the New York Bible Society, have a word for us?

DR. CARTER: The New York Bible Society is very glad to be represented here and extend congratulations and good wishes to the American Tract Society. The representatives of the American Tract Society and the representatives of the New York Bible Society have been working together for a long time and we feel we are in very close cooperation.

I have been connected with the New York Bible Society for eighteen years, and at that time, eighteen years ago, there was a Commissioner at Ellis Island, Commissioner Watchhorn, who was the man who began to make the improvements that have been carried on at Ellis Island, and I think we are fortunate in having Commissioner Watchhorn here tonight. He commended the great work of tract and Bible distribution that has been carried on jointly by the American Tract and New York Bible Societies for the immigrants as they land.

It is interesting to recognize the fact that this last year the eight hundredth translation of the Bible has been reached. (Applause)

PRESIDENT HALL: And now may we have the great pleasure of receiving a message from Commissioner Watchhorn? We should be delighted to have a word from you, sir.

COMMISSIONER WATCHHORN: Mr. President, it surely is a great surprise to me to be called on to say a word at the American Tract Society. I regret very much that Doctor Burrell is absent. One of the reasons why I dropped in here tonight was to see him. Another reason was that I wanted to hear my friend, Doctor Cadman, and my other friend, Doctor North, and to hear how the wonderful Society was getting along.

I have not been able to tell you what a joy it was to me to cooperate with Dr. Carter when he first came to Ellis Island to introduce this great work, because unfortunately, about seven weeks ago, I was thrown into unexpected competition with one of Mr. Ford's cars, and I have only just gotten out of a hospital, and am not able to stand very long, and certainly not capable of expressing myself as I should like to do on this occasion.

I thank you very, very much. I am delighted to know that the American Tract Society is progressing and has prospered so well. No one knows better than I what a wonderful Society it is, what a wonderful work it is doing and has done, and I rejoice as Doctor Cadman does, when the Tract Society's representatives came when we were boys on the other side. If you can only keep up your good work and keep such a spirit alive and such accomplishments daily arrived at, you will have a great reward, each and every one of you, as individuals and as a Society.

Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT HALL: And now in conclusion, we have had a most blessed time here tonight I think we all agree. We have enjoyed the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, and we rejoice indeed over the warm gracious testimonies that have been given by many to the good work of this old Society under God, and now we are going forward into our two hundredth year and are looking forward to a period of great usefulness. We must increase the facilities and output of the American Tract Society. Its work will be more vital, more important, more essentially necessary to the onward march of the Church of Christ in coming days than in all the past.

We have provided every one here tonight with the copy of the splendid report of our General Secretary, Dr. Matthews. We have here represented also the Executive Secretaryship in our friend and associate, Dr. Hardy, who, with Dr. Matthews, is

giving the American Tract Society with those associated with them, the most efficient, business-like, energetic and vitally successful administration that I have ever known it to possess within the period of my knowledge of its affairs. God bless them! So far as the members of the Board of Managers are concerned and the members of the Executive Committee and its constituent committees, the Publication Committee, the Distribution Committee, and all the other committees, they are all likewise doing their part and contributing toward the onward work of the Society for the dissemination of the knowledge of our blessed Lord according to the teachings of His book, the Bible.

We rejoice in this Anniversary Meeting which we have had together. We have had occasion to praise and thank God as we listened to testimonies coming from the heart as well as the head. We rejoice in the burning messages of Doctor Cadman, and Doctor North, and all of the others including that Christly address of our dear brother in Christ, Mr. Bryan. By the way, before he went out I got a promise from him of a number of tracts that we can use and distribute by hundreds of thousands throughout the length and breadth of the land. (Applause)

We stated there was to be no solicitation of funds tonight, and there is to be none, but I suggest that you all ask the dear Lord to show you how you may cooperate with these noble people associated together here tonight, in the work of the American Tract Society, and then may you proceed as His gracious Spirit may lead you.

In conclusion I am going to ask our good friend and active member on the Executive Committee, Dr. David G. Wylie, to lead us in a word of closing prayer and dismiss us.

DR. WYLIE: We thank Thee, O Lord, for this memorable occasion, for the addresses, suggestive and stimulating and inspiring that have been delivered. Once more we thank Thee for the past and trust Thee for the future. We rejoice that our God controls the wisdom of the world and the wealth of the world. We come seeking and looking for Thy blessing and Thy benediction. Defend us by Thy almighty power through the night, conduct us safely through the journey of life, and bring us at last to our Father's house.

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us and abide with us forever. Amen.

PRESIDENT HALL: And now before we adjourn, Dr. Wylie has a motion.

DR. WYLIE: Mr. President, I am sure we all unite in this consensus of opinion that this has been a memorable occasion. President Hall, you have transformed this hall into a university by gathering together a brilliant group of speakers. I would like to thank every speaker, but especially I wish to move that we give a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bryan and Doctor Cadman.

The motion was seconded.

PRESIDENT HALL: Those in favor respond by saying "aye"; contrary "no". Thank you. It is a vote.

The session is now dismissed. May God be with you.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 o'clock.

ADJOURNMENT.

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